

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

[c01] A video recorder, comprising:

a processor communicating with memory, the memory for storing video data of an event captured by a camera, the video data comprising a series of picture frames;  
a loop buffer also storing video data of the event captured by the camera; and  
a set of rules stored in the memory, the set of rules determining when to transfer the contents of the loop buffer into the memory,

wherein the video recorder utilizes the loop buffer to provide video data preceding the event.

[c02] A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a mass-storage device, the mass storage device storing the video data of the event.

[c03] A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises an optical storage device.

[c04] A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a memory card.

[c05] A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a flash memory storage device.

[c06] A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising an interface to a communications network.

- [c07] A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the set of rules specifies vehicular data that causes a transfer of the contents of the loop buffer into the memory devices memory.
- [c08] A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising a switch to transfer the contents of the loop buffer into the memory.
- [c09] A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the loop buffer also stores audio data of the event captured by a microphone.
- [c10] A video recorder according to claim 1, further comprising an interface with a vehicle controller to transfer the contents of the loop buffer into the memory.
- [c11] A video recorder according to claim 1, wherein the set of rules tags the video data with metadata, the metadata providing a description of a rule that caused the contents of the loop buffer to be transferred to the memory.
- [c12] A method, comprising:

storing video data of an event captured by a camera, the video data comprising a series of picture frames;

storing the video data of the event in a loop buffer;

applying a set of rules to transfer the contents of the loop buffer to the memory,

wherein the method provides video data preceding the event.

- [c13] A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer to a mass-storage device.
- [c14] A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer to an optical storage device.

- [c15] A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer to a flash memory storage device.
- [c16] A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring the contents of the loop buffer via a communications network.
- [c17] A method according to claim 12, further comprising interfacing with a switch to transfer video data of the event.
- [c18] A method according to claim 12, further comprising transferring audio data of the event.
- [c19] A method according to claim 12, further comprising interfacing with a vehicle controller to transfer video data of the event.
- [c20] A method according to claim 12, further comprising tagging the video data with metadata, the metadata providing a description of a rule that caused the contents of the loop buffer to be transferred to the memory.